

Conserving and Monitoring BC's Coastal Landbirds

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Abstract

Partners in Flight is a multi-partnered initiative with a vision to maintain the health of bird populations and their habitats. Partners in Flight uses regional data, local expertise, and international standards to determine conservation priorities and develop and implement regional conservation plans. BC and Yukon Partners in Flight has identified 67 priority landbird species for Canada's Northern Pacific Rainforest, and from these has selected a subset of focal species to help provide management recommendations. The needs of these species could be incorporated in new and existing partnerships such as the Pacific Coast Joint Venture and Georgia Basin Ecosystem Initiative. Improved monitoring of coastal landbirds will be integral to successful conservation efforts. Many priority species are declining, some are extirpated, but for many others population trends and status are unknown. Rocky Point Bird Observatory on Vancouver Island has been monitoring both breeding and migrating birds in Garry Oak Meadow and Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems since 1994 and trial breeding and migration monitoring has been initiated recently at Alaksen National Wildlife Area south of Vancouver. Data from these monitoring programs will help evaluate the status of BC's coastal landbirds, and efforts are underway to link results with other coastal monitoring stations in North America.